

# WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO TO MEDICARE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, what have our Republican friends done since they have taken over Congress? They said they would give tax breaks to the rich. They kept their promise. They said they would increase defense spending boondoggles. They kept their promise. They said they would help the rich and powerful and told them that they would continue corporate welfare. They kept their promise.

But what have they done to the rest of us? They told senior citizens they would not touch Social Security or Medicare. They broke their promise. They told the students that they would not touch student loans or aid to education. They broke their promise. They told our veterans they would not harm their COLA's and their veterans' health care benefits. They broke their promise. They told the middle class they would not hurt the middle class. They broke their promise. They told the Nation's schoolchildren they would not rob school lunches, take them out of their mouth. They broke their promise.

In short the Republicans kept their promises to the rich and powerful. They just broke their promise to everyone else.

I say to my colleagues, "Wait until you see what they're going to do to Medicare."

## PRESIDENTIAL FLIP-FLOP

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, in March 1992, then Gov. Bill Clinton was quoted regarding the issue of normalizing relations with Vietnam as saying:

The president should not just state that the resolution of the issue is a "national priority," he should make it the national priority, and direct that all agencies cooperate and resolve it. . . . Before I would normalize relations or provide assistance to any of the countries involved, they would be required to open their files and actively assist in solving this issue.

And then in October of that same year he said:

It would be "putting the cart before the horse" to normalize relations before receiving a full accounting of the prisoner situation. . . .

I ask where is that full accounting President Clinton promised before normalizing of relations would occur? Where is it?

President Clinton has indeed put the cart before the horse. He has normalized relations with Vietnam in return he got nothing.

# REPUBLICANS ARE CUTTING MEDICARE TO PAY FOR TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, every senior citizen in this country needs to understand what is going on here. The Republicans are going to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare. To make these huge cuts the Republicans will demand more copayments, raise deductibles, and hike premiums. I say to my colleagues, "You will wake up in the year 2000 and your \$46-a-month premium will be at least doubled. Your \$100 deductible will be more than double. You will have to pay 20 percent of any home care or rehabilitation care that you need out of your own pocket even if your only income is Social Security."

Why are the Republicans making these huge cuts? To give \$245 billion in tax cuts, yet more than half of these cuts will go to people earning more than \$100,000 a year. I say to my colleagues, "That's easily 10 times your income on Social Security."

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, "The Republicans think Medicare is the bank of the budget. They'll pull up to the bank window, withdraw your money, and put it right into the pockets of the richest Americans who simply don't care whether you get needed health care or not."

## THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BILBRAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, America is a nation of immigrants; America is also a nation of laws. As the House begins consideration this week on a comprehensive immigration reform, we should be mindful of the distinction between legal and illegal immigration. With this in mind, our laws should reflect our desire to reward legal immigration and discourage illegal immigration.

Current law, Mr. Speaker, sends conflicting signals. Immigrants who play by the rules, observe our laws, and go through the proper legal channels wait for years to be U.S. citizens. Conversely, if an undocumented woman crosses the border illegally, gives birth to a child on U.S. soil, that child automatically becomes a citizen. The child, and by extension its parents who are here illegally, are eligible for a menu of State and Federal benefits.

When our laws punish legal behavior, but reward illegal behavior, Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder the American taxpayers demand that we redress this situation.

# SENIORS HAVE REASON TO BE AFRAID OF WHAT THE REPUBLICANS ARE DOING

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, what is behind the Republicans' wild swings at Medicare? In part it is to finance a tax cut for the privileged few, but it is also a reflection of a basic Republican dislike of Medicare. Words can be very meaningful, and look at what the majority leader said yesterday about Medicare: I would like to be free to choose not to become in any extent a ward of the State.

Americans are not wards of the State when they receive Medicare. Indeed, Medicare helps make seniors independent, not dependent. Medicare helps seniors avoid becoming wards of the State and wards of their children.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are scaring the seniors of this country, and seniors have reason to be afraid of what the Republicans are doing.

## WE NEED TO GET TO WORK ON SAVING MEDICARE

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago Members on the other side of the aisle demonstrated their unhappiness with this House ending business early in the day. Yet on Monday of this week the very first thing the Democrats wanted to do after a 9-day break for the Independence Day recess was to adjourn the House.

We did not need a recess after 9 days off. We did not need to adjourn the day after a vacation. What we need to do is roll up our sleeves and work on preserving, protecting, and strengthening Medicare.

And now that very famous Democrat liquor store memo that said participants should encourage individuals to, quote, think that the GOP wants to cut Medicare, not to make it more efficient, but to hurt the elderly, end quote. The memo then states that, quote, we need to exploit this, end quote. Mr. Speaker, we do not need to exploit Medicare. We need to save it.

At the end of this month Medicare will celebrate its 30th anniversary, and the new majority of this House wants Medicare to be around for the next 30 years. While we are trying to strengthen, protect, and preserve Medicare, some just want to go home.

## SMOKING GUN ON RUBY RIDGE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, let us look at the facts:

The FBI shot and killed Randy Weaver's unarmed son. The FBI then shot and wounded Randy Weaver. The FBI then shot and killed Randy Weaver's unarmed wife while holding her infant son, shot her right between the eyes. Now reports say that the FBI destroyed documents to conceal the incident of Ruby Ridge.

Did anyone really believe the FBI would leave a smoking gun on Ruby Ridge? It is unbelievable, my colleagues.

The bottom line here is the FBI says they made a mistake. I say the FBI committed felonies and committed a crime on Ruby Ridge. Since when did the Congress of the United States empower the FBI to first entrap and then shoot down and kill unarmed American families?

The remains of the Weaver family are screaming out from graves for justice, and Congress is turning its back. Let us investigate Ruby Ridge, and let us let the FBI answer to the people, the Constitution, and the Congress of the United States of America.

#### WE ARE GOING TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND IMPROVE MEDICARE

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have a simple three-step plan to give Medicare recipients the right to the same quality and choice that their own children and grandchildren have.

First, all senior citizens currently on Medicare must be allowed to remain on Medicare just exactly the way it is for as long as they want, if that is what they choose.

Second, all seniors who want to join a health plan that covers more than today's Medicare, including routine physicals, prescription drugs, and eyeglasses, should have that right.

Third, all seniors who want to set up a Medicare savings account that will pay for their health care needs and reward them for making healthy choices should be given that right as well.

Mr. Speaker, today's seniors deserve the right to the best medical care system possible, and tomorrow's seniors deserve to know that the money that they have paid in Medicare taxes will also have been a sound investment, and, Mr. Speaker, according to the budget resolution all of this would be done with an increase in spending per beneficiary from \$4,816 in 1995 to \$6,734 in 2002.

We are going to protect, preserve, and improve Medicare.

#### SAVE MEDICARE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, the real question is, How many years have your loved ones, parents, aunts and un-

cles, relatives, been in the work force? 30 years? 40 years? 50 years?

The legacy of our seniors who have given to this country is one of hard work.

But do my colleagues know what the call of the Republican Party is today?

Let's ration them. Let's voucher the Medicare system. Let's make sure that seniors and the disabled just get a minimal amount of medical care and make sure that, if they need more, the heck with them. It doesn't matter whether you've been in the work force and given to this Nation 30, 40, 50 years of commitment, and now you come to a time when you are retired and you need the Medicare system, developed by this Nation in order to relieve the health care burden on seniors and the disabled. What the Republicans want to do is voucher you out of the system. They want to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare with the false premise that we're slowing growth.

What does slowing growth mean? It means that those who are diabetic who have been able to be under maintenance, and survive, and be healthy will no longer have any care. It means people with high blood pressure will wind up in hospitals with strokes, without adequate health maintenance to keep their blood pressure down.

Save the Medicare program. What we need is to fix the fraud, but we do not need to voucher those who contributed to this Nation out of the system. Medicare is for those who have worked and the disabled. Both groups now need our help to save Medicare.

#### ROLE MODEL ECONOMY

(Mr. DICKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, \$245 million; that is what the tax cut is proposed right now. People are saying, "What about spending cuts first? Part of this is being overlooked." One way that we can have spending cuts in our Government is to starve the agencies that are overspending at this time. So, we are looking at shrinking the Government by reducing the taxes. That is No. 1.

No. 2 is that we are going to give back to the taxpayers the money that they have earned. We have too long gone with the idea that this money that comes up here is the Government's. It is ours. It is the bureaucrats'. It is the politicians'.

It is not. It is the people who earn it, and those people who earn it are entitled to spend it, and, if we give it back to them, they will spend it the way they want to, or they can save it. We, as a government, are not saving anything. We have a chance to give it back to the people. We have a chance to say, "You've earned it, and you could do what you want to with it. It will help the economy."

One other thing:

When we sit here and say we are going to discriminate against the rich

and we do not want to have a tax cut because it will help the rich, it is avoiding an opportunity to have a role model for those people who want to acquire more.

#### CAMPAIGN AND LOBBY REFORM

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday on "Face the Nation," Speaker GINGRICH backed down on his promise to pass campaign finance and lobby reform. His excuse—Congress is moving too quickly on the issue.

Too quickly? Is he serious? Mr. Speaker, we have yet to have a hearing this Congress on campaign finance reform. And there has been no floor action on lobby reform since the Republican leadership stopped us on the first day of the session. Even the loyal class of freshman Republicans is starting to get fed up with Speaker GINGRICH's string of broken promises on these reform issues.

Mr. GINGRICH, I know you are enjoying the dramatic increase in PAC contributions to the Republican Party and it's clear you don't mind if industry lobbyists co-write legislation. But if you're really serious about curbing the power of special interest in Washington and making Congress more accountable to the voters, it's time to move on campaign finance reform.

You're not fooling anyone with your call for exploratory committees, Mr. Speaker. It's just another transparent delay tactic coming from a party leader benefiting from the status-quo.

□ 1020

#### SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what do Robert Reich, Donna Shalala, and Robert Rubin have in common?

(a) They are all Democrats

(b) They are all members of President Clinton's cabinet

(c) They all predict that the Medicare Trust Fund will go bankrupt by the year 2002

(d) All of the above

If you picked (d), you're right. Republicans aren't making the Medicare crisis up. The Medicare Trustees, which are members of the President's own Cabinet, have said that the Medicare Trust Fund is going broke. So while the Democrats in the House chose to ignore the Administration, the Republicans have listened. We understand the importance of the situation, and we know what will happen if we do nothing but maintain the status quo—Medicare will go bankrupt.

Republicans will work hard to preserve, protect and improve Medicare not only for this generation, but also